

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

Articles on the Institute's early development stage were published in:

- *Canyons & Caves*, Issue No. 19, Winter 2000-2001, A newsletter from the Resources Management Offices Carlsbad Caverns National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/cave/pdfdocs/c%26c19.pdf>)
- *Inside Earth*, A newsletter of the National Park Service Cave and Karst Programs, Vol. 3 No. 3, Winter 2000-2001 (<http://den2s11.den.nps.gov/grd/geology/caves/newsletter.htm>)
- *U.S. Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop Proceedings*: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 01-4011, p.52-55.
- April 2001 issue of *GSA Today*, a publication of the Geological Society of America, which reaches a broad range of geoscientists.

PRE-INSTITUTE ENABLING ACT HISTORY

Congress passed the landmark Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 creating a major impetus for Federal agencies involvement in cave and karst protection and management. This Act directed the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to inventory and list significant caves on federal lands and provided for the management and dissemination of information about caves.

In 1990, Congress passed Public Law 101-578 directing the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), to establish and administer a Cave Research Program and prepare a report for Congress that examined the feasibility of a centralized National Cave and Karst Research Institute. The Secretary sent the National Cave and Karst Research Institute Study Report to Congress in December 1994.

The 1994 Report made the key recommendation that the NPS and another entity, probably academic in nature, should jointly administer the Institute. The report identified the NPS as the appropriate project lead because it managed 59 park units containing significant cave resources and already had a Cave and Karst Program in place. The report noted that the NPS would have ultimate responsibility for the Institute and would retain indirect control over its activities and programs, while the academic entity/managing partner would plan, coordinate, and administer the Institute and its programs.

THE NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT OF 1998

Congress passed the National Cave and Karst Research Institute Act of 1998, generally following the recommendations of the 1994 Report. The complete Act is available at ww2.nature.gov/nckri/legislat.htm and the inside back cover of this report. The legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior to create the Institute, acting through the National Park Service. It designated

the Carlsbad, New Mexico, area as the home for the Institute and also stated that the Institute could either lease or build a suitable facility. Although the NPS would establish the Institute, Congress directed that it be jointly administered by the NPS and a private or public partner and operated in accordance with the 1994 Report to Congress. A key "matching funds" provision was inserted by Congress, directing that the Secretary of the Interior may spend federal funds for the Institute only to the extent that they are matched by an equal amount from non-federal sources. The Institute may accept grants from private persons and transfers of funds from other federal agencies. However, the current interpretation of the legislation requires that funds provided by any federal agency (e.g., USGS, USDA, EPA, NSF, NPS, etc.) to support Institute programs must also be equally matched by non-federal funds.

INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE

The NPS assigned responsibility for implementing the Act jointly to the Intermountain Regional Office and the Geologic Resources Division, a national office. An initial challenge was that while the Act provided authority, Congress did not appropriate any funding for the Institute at that time. In July 2000, the Geologic Resources Division hired Interim Director Zelda Chapman Bailey on a term appointment to begin developing the Institute by defining the scope of operations, forming initial partnerships, securing both federal and non-federal funding, and developing proposed organizational structures and plans for a physical facility.

Interim Director Bailey's assignment emphasized developing collaborative relationships. She traveled extensively, networking at a personal level with a variety of groups across the Nation. Convened and participated in numerous formal and informal meetings within the NPS and with other federal agencies, with state agencies, Congressional staff, city officials, universities, foundations, and private groups. In addition, significant effort was devoted to networking via e-mail and phone conversations. Bailey also started a tradition of e-mailing monthly summaries



Interim Director Zelda Chapman Bailey

**Federal Working
Group meeting
locations and dates:**

Denver, Colorado
December 2000

Albuquerque, New Mexico
May 2001

San Antonio, Texas
September 2001

Tallahassee, Florida
February 2002

Carlsbad, New Mexico
August 2002

Mammoth Cave, Kentucky
February 2003

of Institute activities to interested individuals. An archive of the Institute's monthly summaries is available at: www2.nature.gov/nckri/month_sum.htm A web site for the Institute was launched in September 2001 to provide general information on the Institute to a wider audience and to solicit input into the formational process of the Institute. The site can be accessed at www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri.

FEDERAL WORKING GROUP

As part of this initial effort, the NPS established the National Cave and Karst Research Institute Federal Working Group. Twelve cave and karst land management experts represented the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Geological Survey. They also communicated with cave and karst interest groups to provide their perspectives and to keep them informed on Institute activities.

The Federal Working Group met twice yearly between December 2000 and February 2003. Meetings took place in different cities to allow individuals with interest in the development of the Institute to attend. During those two-plus developmental years, the Federal Working Group provided guidance to the interim director as an indispensable sounding board and think tank concerning all aspects of establishing the Institute, and worked on a wide range of issues ranging from the Institute's mission and goals to building requirements, funding sources, and research priorities. The Federal Working Group also looked at the Institute's possible organizational structure, management issues, and potential models for advisory boards.



In December 2002, the National Park Service hired Dr. Louise Hose as the Institute's Director. The Interim Director's position tenure ended in April 2003.

Dave Shaver and Ronal Kerbo,
NPS – Geologic Resources Division

**The Interim Director and the Federal
Working Group created an incipient
financial support program, utilizing
NPS project funding for several
projects during the Institute's
Initial Development Phase.**

Projects included:

- Collaboration with Karst Waters Institute to produce a booklet *Guidelines for Cave and Karst Management for America's Protected Lands*;
- Collaboration with U.S. Geological Survey to produce a USGS Circular (a magazine-style publication) on cave and karst science and management in the United States;
- Collaboration with USGS, other federal agencies, and university, state, and private groups to produce national and local karst maps and to make the integrated information available through an interactive website;
- Sponsoring publication of three cave-related books with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, National Speleological Society, and Boston University;
- Printing the American Cave Conservation Association *Exploring Caves and Karst Curriculum Guide* for their use and to support National Cave Association programs;
- Supporting Western Kentucky University projects to investigate bacterial DNA fragment profiles in cave sediments, and support for a masters degree program tailored to working resource managers.